July 26, 2014
Final Freedom to Marry Worship Service

A Celebration of Marriage Equality

Hosted by: Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

TONIGHT'S ORDER OF SERVICE

Gathering Music

Video: "Same Love"

Welcome

Call to Worship

Processional Song "Ours the Journey"

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering their separate ways?

Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and evermore

Through the flood of starving peoples,
warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? **Refrain**

Though we reach the highest heavens,
holding worlds at our command,
we are yet a desert people
searching for the promised land. **Refrain**

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain
may your blazing phoenix spirit
re-connect us all again. **Refrain**

Opening Prayer

Reading—1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:41-42
When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul...Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt...David rose from beside the stone heap and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He bowed three times, and they kissed each other, and wept with each other; David wept the more. Then Jonathan said, "Go in peace, since both of us have sworn in the name of the Lord, saying 'The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants, forever." He got up and left; and Jonathan went into the city.

Reading—Kahlil Gibran
Here love begins to render the prose of Life into hymns and canticles of praise, with music that is set by night, to be sung in the day. Here Love's longing draws back the veil, and illumines the recesses of the heart, creating a happiness that no other happiness can surpass but that of the Soul when she embraces God. Marriage is the union of two divinities that a third might be borne on earth. It is the union of two souls in a strong love for the abolishment of separateness. It is that higher unity which fuses the separate unities within the two spirits. It is the golden ring in a chain whose beginning is a glance, and whose ending is Eternity. It is the pure rain that falls from an unblemished sky to fructify and bless the fields of divine Nature. As the first glance from the eyes of the beloved is like a seed sown in the human heart, and the first kiss of her lips like a flower upon the branch of the Tree of Life, so the union of two lovers in marriage is like the first fruit of the first flower of that seed. (From The Treasured Writings of Kahlil Gibran)

Reading—William Shakespeare (Sonnet 116)
Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O, no! It is an ever-fix'd mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;

It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no one ever lov'd.

Offering—If I Had A Hammer

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening all over this land
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning,
I'd ring it in the evening all over this land.
I'd ring out danger, I ring out a warning
I'd ring out love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning,
I'd sing it in the evening all over this land.
I'd sing out danger, I'd sing out a warning
I'd sing out love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.

Well, I got a hammer and I've got a bell
And I've got a song to sing all over this land
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom,
It the song about love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening all over this land
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning
I'd hammer out love between my brothers and my sisters,
all over this land.

Reading—"Hands" by Helen Bottel

A good marriage is a lifetime of hands.
It's a shaking hand sliding a shiny gold band onto the finger of another shaking hand.
It's an anxious hand tugging on a suddenly shy hand.
It's hands touching in sudden tenderness, or swinging together down a crowded street, or fingers interlocking in the darkness of a theater.
It's expressive hands: the playful pat, the beckoning wave, the rumpled hair, the help me please gesture -- and sometimes, but not often, the clenched fist.
It's two ecstatic hands being grasped by tiny brand new hands.
It's hurrying hands setting dinner for hungry hands.
It's angry hands pushing away angrier hands.
It's an encouraging hand patting a discouraged hand.
It's a panicky hand clutching a calm hand.
It's a proud hand introducing an embarrassed hand.
It's two joyous hands grabbing happy hands-- and hands sharing sadness with a touch.
It's healthy hands holding sick hands.
It's strong hands supporting grief-stricken hands.
It's also tear-stained hands entwining other tear-stained hands.
It's hands joining in prayer.
And finally, it is a shaking hand sliding a dull gold band off the finger of a very still hand.

Reading—Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said,
'Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!'

Song: "I Am With You"

Clergy Statements

Abundant Blessings

Song: "All of Me"

Closing Blessing

Closing Song: "We Are Walking"
We are walking in the light of God,
we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking in the light of God,
we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking, ooo-oooh,
We are walking in the light of God.
We are walking, ooo-oooh,
We are walking in the light of God.

We are marching...

We are singing...

We are dancing...

We are praying...

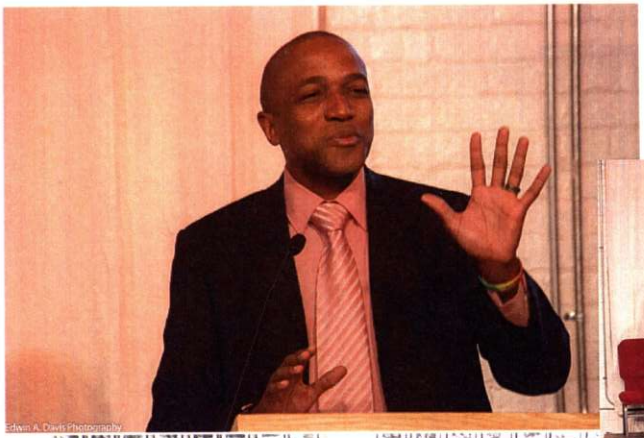
We are walking...

Benediction

Many thanks to tonight's fabulous clergy:

Rev. Rev. Stephanie Barnett (Unitarian Universalist)
Rev. Elaine Ely (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Elizabeth Goudy (Metropolitan Community Churches)
Rev. Joanne Marchetto (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Joy Wyler (Unity)

FOLLOWING TONIGHT'S SERVICE:
An Ice Cream Social
All welcome!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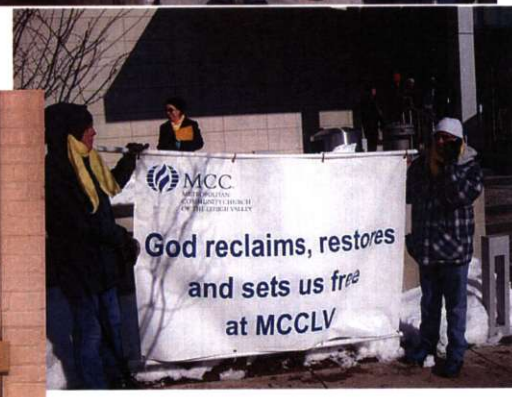
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and sets us free
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Great Worship.
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Great God.

Sunday Service at 10:30am

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